

REMARKS

I. Formalities

Applicant notes that the Examiner still has not indicated consideration of the references listed on the PTO/SB/08 Form submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement of February 9, 2004. Applicant again respectfully requests that the Examiner sign the PTO/SB/08 Form, initial the references cited therein, and return it along with the next Office Action.

II. Status of the Application

By the present Amendment, Applicant is amending claims 5, 9, 11, and 15. Specifically, Applicant is rewriting each of claims 5, 9, 11, and 15 in independent form, including all of the limitations of claim 4. No new matter is added. Further, Applicant is canceling claims 2 and 4 without prejudice or disclaimer.

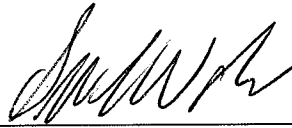
Claims 3, 5-13, 15, 16, 25-31, and 36 are all the claims currently pending in the application. Claims 25-31 have been allowed. Claims 3, 5-13, 15, 16, and 36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As discussed above, Applicant is rewriting each of claims 5, 9, 11, and 15 in independent form. Accordingly, claims 5, 9, 11, and 15, along with dependent claims 3, 6-8, 10, 12, 13, 16, and 36, are immediately allowable over the cited prior art. Further, Applicant is canceling rejected claims 2 and 4 without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are allowable over the cited prior art.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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